no difficulty for doing so. You ascertain the views from both of them and submit their case together. You know who the dividing parties are ; I think it is one Aykya Sangham and one Educational Sangham.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—Yes, Sir.

Improvement of Kunnamkulam town.

257. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) whether the opening of the road or lane referred to in question No. 156 of the Budget Session of 1101 and subsequently in question No. 157 of the Legislative Session of 1103, and which the Government have admitted to be necessary for the safety of the lives of women and children, has been taken up for execution ;and if so, what has been done so far in the matter ;

(2) what items of work were done with the amounts allotted for the improvement of Kunnamkulam town in the last 2 years ;

(3) whether the whole allotted amounts were utilised in the last 2 years ;

(4) what will be the cost for opening the road or lane referred to in part (1) of the question ?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—(1) No.

(2) A list showing the items of works done in the last 2 years with the allotments is appended. (*Vide Appendix I.*)

(3) Yes.

(4) Between Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 4,000 approximately.

Wells not thrown open to all classes.

258. Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Will the Government kindly state:—

whether there are any wells, all over the State, maintained by the Sanitary Department or by any other Department of the Government, which are not thrown open for use by all classes of His Highness' subjects; if there are, which are those wells, where are they located and what is the particular reason in each case for excluding any portion of the public from the use of the well in spite of the fact that it is maintained by public money ?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—The attention of the Member is invited to the answer furnished to question No. 438 published on page 1247 of the Council Proceedings of the Legislative Session of 1101. It is a laborious work to give particular reasons in each case for excluding any portion of the public from the use of the well. Some of the wells are not thrown open to all classes on account of caste reasons and practice and others

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are not wanted for other classes since other sources are available.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—May I know which are those wells which are not wanted by other classes since other sources are available ?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—On this question I am not able to go into details. I remember during the last Budget Session I explained the case in full, that in Tiruvilvamala village there were three or four wells. One was situated near the temple where the other classes have no access and there is one there which is available to all.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—You have said that 'others are not wanted for other classes since other sources are available.'

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I am speaking to you about that. Of the four wells in Tiruvilvamala, one was near the temple, one was near the schools and one was lower down which was accessible to all classes. Like that there are wells which are accessible to all classes alike everywhere.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Is there a category of wells which because other classes get other wells, and on that ground alone are not accessible to all ?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—There are common wells which are accessible to all classes alike. There are in the neighbourhood of temples other wells which are only accessible to caste people. Except those we have not wells which are not accessible to all alike.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Am I to understand that besides caste ones all other wells in the State are accessible to all classes of people ?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Caste wells! I do not understand what you mean by caste wells. I shall just give an instance now.

In the Trichur Taluk, there are a number of wells. Of these only three wells are not open to all classes. All the others are open to all classes.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—The well near the Trichur Police Station, I think, that is not open to all classes; it may be not for caste reasons but for other reasons that it is not open to all.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—We have placed no restrictions. Non-caste people do not go there because they do not live in the vicinity.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I am told they cannot have access to it.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I do not know.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Are there at Palayannur common wells under the Sanitary Department ?

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Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—All those have been transferred to the Panchayat Department.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Are there wells which are accessible to all people at Palayannur ?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I have not got that file here. I think last year I explained everything about Palayannur.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—So now they are not under your Department ?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—They have been transferred.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—I have not received any complaint about that so far.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Are there wells which are open to all classes at Palayannur ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—I am not sure.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Altogether there are 12 wells that are open to all classes in the State. That was the reply given to a question yesterday.

Transfer of the Assistant Engineers.

259. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state the special reasons for the latest transfer of the two Assistant Engineers ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The officers were long serving in the same place and it was thought desirable to transfer them.

Licenses for quarrying stone.

260. Mr. V. V. Anantapadmanabha Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to inform the House:—

(1) the number of applications for license to quarry stone received by the Government in the year 1103 ;

(2) the time taken for the disposal of such petition in the ordinary course ;

(3) the object of the Government insisting upon such a license to quarry stone from private holding ?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—(1) 1,716 applications in all.

(2) 15 to 30 days approximately.

(3) To safeguard public interests and revenue which may be affected by promiscuous quarrying. The Member is also referred to the proceedings of the Council printed on pages 265-276 of Vol. III, Part IV and pages 321—341 of Vol. III, Part V.

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